



Travis honors Air Force ...
HERITAGE

PAGES 4, 16-17



Service must change playbook to prevail

Commentary by Lt. Col. Nelson Rouleau

12TH AIRBORNE COMMAND AND CONTROL SQUADRON

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Our collective failure to lead boldly and teach others to do the same has led us toward the end of our runway.

Airmen are watching

Young military leaders vicariously learn the easiest path to promotion is through conservative decisions, and a single mistake may cost a career.

In light of these realities, too many noncommissioned officers and company-grade officers are frightened to fail. For far too long NCOs and CGOs witnessed those who've

swerved slightly off their path, risk career-ending consequences.

The flight path to success is clear: no mistakes. The easiest way to avoid a misstep is to bypass high-risk decisions and to avoid unpredictable outcomes.

Unsurprisingly, much like a football game, in a fourth down and one-yard to gain situation, the proverbial Air Force playbook has only one strategy, punt the football.

Sadly, we routinely punt on fourth-and-one regardless of field position. We punt from our own 20-yard line or our opponent's 10-yard line. Can you imagine the embarrassment and the force-shaping board that awaits the Airman who misses a 27-yard field goal? I can.

Commander's Commentary

The Air Force's playbook lacks risk. As a result, the playbook has been stripped of any real value. It's electronical-ly tossed through the bureaucratic chain of command until it lay absent of ideas that dare to challenge the status quo. The book is written not to lose.

Williamson Murray correctly pointed out that, "The problem lies in the fact that these so-called strategic documents are the products of bureaucratic processes that aim to remove every contentious issue."

Going even further in his analysis of these type of documents, Murray posited that

they're "written by large groups of the unimaginative; they are passed up the chain of command to insure that there is nothing daring or controversial that might upset the conventional wisdom with its comfortable assumptions about the future."

Time to rewrite strategies

Our strategy is designed not to win, but to avoid failure. There is a difference. The entire playbook should be discarded and started anew. It's time to rewrite bold new strategies that are driven not by fear of failure, but by a tenacious will-to-win.

On fourth-and-one, encourage every Airman, fast or slow, tall or short, great hands or stone hands, to go deep and look

for the ball in the end zone.

Demand your quarterback throw the ball deep. The focus of this commentary is to ask every squadron commander to author and approve new and audacious fourth-and-one options.

It examines how adding the long ball to the fourth and short playbook inspires trust and confidence in Airmen, and it asserts that the bold play on fourth down values failure as a learning opportunity.

Having the audacity to plan and execute a 50-yard throw on fourth and one instills confidence and demonstrates the value of calculated risk. Most importantly, Airmen will recognize genuine trust and will understand the end state is to win.

See ROULEAU Page 30

Supporting good wingmen to make a difference

Commentary by Dave Smith

21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — I cracked a couple of puns with a masked man I assumed to be a doctor. He said he was sorry, but I knew it wasn't about the puns. He showed genuine regret.

About seven hours later I woke up disoriented, in a room full of people I couldn't really see. Loud beeps seemed to come from everywhere, each signifying various degrees of urgency.

Commentary

The first clue I remained amongst the living was gagging on what felt like a large piece of drain pipe stuck down my throat.

I heard my wife's voice, sweet, comforting and ... worried. Right about that time pain began approaching from the fringes of my upper body, like a big blanket of searing, sharp hurt engulfing my torso. Memory rushed in along with the pain and I recalled now: I just

received double bypass heart surgery and a valve replacement. They called it cabbage for its acronym, CABG — Cardiac Atrial Bypass Graft — and because of the reference I will never look at cole slaw the same way again.

My sternum was cracked open, they said it was surgically cut, but I knew better. My heart was lifted, scraped and had two arteries replaced using the radial artery from my left arm. A replacement atrial valve was put into my heart — yes, inside of my heart — and the mitral valve was repaired. "Repaired" is

a highly technological cardiology term, probably Latin, meaning "scraped clean." Maybe even wire brushed.

They reconnected my sternum with something like baling wire, stitched my chest and left a nine-inch zipper-looking wound behind. Add that to the 10-inch scar on my forearm and I was set to terrorize small children and the squeamish. After a night of excruciating pain in the intensive care unit I went to the room that would be my home for the next eight days.

See SMITH Page 21

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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On the cover

Airmen assigned to the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron participate in the POW/MIA run Sept. 15 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford

CRW Airmen deliver relief after Hurricane Irma

Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno

621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING

HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla. — As Hurricane Irma set its sights on the Caribbean Islands and headed straight toward the U.S. mainland, thousands of residents were ordered to evacuate the area.

The 621st Contingency Response Wing, at the request of civil authorities, placed multiple alert teams on standby to support ongoing Hurricane Irma relief efforts in the Caribbean and the U.S. to help protect the lives and safety of those in affected areas.

The 321st Contingency Response Squadron from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey was the first one to send a contingency response team to Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, in support of Hurricane Irma relief efforts.

"Arriving at a location with no outside agencies to lean upon is the situation our team trains for," said Master Sgt. Joseph Royer, 321st CRS CRT chief.

"A lot of times we create dependencies to ease our workload or to channel authority," Royer said. "In this case, it became apparent the moment we hit the ground that the ramp was ours and we had no one to lean on but each other."

They quickly opened port operations and offloaded 112.8 short tons of cargo and relief supplies, including two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, cargo and personnel from the 66th and 920th Rescue Squadrons, as well as team from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The CRT sustained 24-hour operations until follow-on forces arrived from the 439th Airlift Wing from Westover ARB, Massachusetts.

Shortly after a 17-member CRT from



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno

Aerial porters load cargo onto a C-5M Super Galaxy Sept. 16 at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. The aircraft from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., redeployed personnel and equipment from the 66th Rescue Squadron back home to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The team was deployed in support of Hurricane Irma relief efforts.

the 821st Contingency Response Group from Travis Air Force Base, California, arrived to augment the 439th AW airfield capabilities in support of hurricane relief efforts.

"We are here to help support Hurricane Irma victims and Homestead ARB personnel by opening and operating the airfield," said Master Sgt. Master Sgt. Rodney Huffer, 921st Contingency

Response Squadron CRT chief. "This allows the people here and the base to re-establish a normal operating environment and concentrate on cleanup efforts."

The team worked hand in hand with the 439th AW reserve partners to establish a complete team effort.

"Our capabilities are enhanced by working with our reserve counterparts,"

said Tech. Sgt. Eric Bell, 921st CRS CRT chief. "It was a seamless integration between both teams."

"It's an amazing feeling of pride and accomplishment," said Royer. "Being able to confidently tell the story that we transformed an empty piece of concrete, into a hive of activity that would ultimately result in lives being saved and the burden of suffering being reduced."



U.S. Air Force photo/Hedrick Couch

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Tech. Sgt. Steve Wentz.

Hometown:
Hamilton, Ohio.

What are your goals?
Finish my bachelor's degree.

Unit:
9th Air Refueling Squadron.

Time in service:
Fifteen years.

What are your hobbies?
Camping, hunting and fishing.

Duty title:
Standardization and evaluation in-flight refueling operator.

Family:
Spouse, Shelia Wentz; one son.

What is your greatest achievement?
Becoming a father.

Travis honors nation's POWs, MIAs

Ian Thompson
DAILY REPUBLIC

Army Sgt. 1st Class Roger Hallberg may still be missing 50 years after his unit was ambushed near the Cambodian border, but he was not forgotten Friday at Travis Air Force Base.

Hallberg's photo was on display on a table along with a photo of him with his siblings, as well as the Silver Star he was later awarded for the sacrifice he made that day in 1967. His siblings, brother Bruce Hallberg and sister Anne Hallberg-Holt, were there to talk about their brother.

Col. John Klein, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, said the gathering of Air Force members and veterans in front of those pictures was part of Travis' "promise to remember" those who the Sept. 15 POW/MIA Recognition Day was all about.

That remembrance started at 1:30 p.m. Thursday with the base's annual POW/MIA 24-hour Vigil Run on the track next to the duck pond on base, with airmen running in 15-minute shifts while carrying the POW/MIA and American flags.

First sergeants at Travis started the run and the base's chiefs group ended it by presenting the flags Friday at the POW/MIA ceremony, which took place in front of the 60th Air Mobility Wing's headquarters.

More than 83,000 American military members are unaccounted for since World War II, according to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency.

The 60th Maintenance Group hosted several POWs and their families at a Friday luncheon that featured guest speaker Sascha Jansen, who had been interned by the Japanese in the San-tomas Internment Camp



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose

Capt. Todd Leathermon, front salutes the flag Sept. 15 during the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The ceremony was in conjunction with National POW/MIA Recognition Day and included a 24-hour vigil run.

in the Philippines during World War II.

Jansen was one of several former POWs and MIA family members at the afternoon ceremony at which the guest speakers were Bruce Hallberg and Anne Hallberg-Holt.

Roger Hallberg was one of two Americans who went missing in Vietnam on March 24, 1967, after their mostly South Vietnamese strike force was ambushed by two North Vietnamese Army battalions near the Cambodian border.

He was with the point platoon of a reconnaissance mission when the North Vietnamese opened what

Bruce Hallberg described as "an intense fire" that badly wounded Capt. Jack Stewart and sent the accompanying South Vietnamese fleeing.

"My brother stayed behind with his wounded captain," Bruce Hallberg said. "He was last seen uninjured and firing his weapon."

A couple of days after Roger Hallberg went missing, Bruce Hallberg received a call from Roger's wife asking him to call their parents, who were in Venezuela at the time.

"I hope that you never have to make that call," Hallberg told the crowd Friday.

Bruce and Anne have

been trying to discover their brother's fate ever since then and, if he died, hopefully find his body to bring it home and give his family the closure they have been seeking for a half-century.

The Hallbergs have been closely involved with the National League of POW/MIA Families, which lobbies and works with the Pentagon to find and recover those missing from that war.

The closest they have gotten is that Stewart and Hallberg may have been taken prisoner since their bodies were never found. Help from the government has uncovered eight former North Vietnamese soldiers who

served in the unit that ambushed Hallberg's unit "and we are looking for the guy who either buried him or led him off to the jungle," Bruce Hallberg said.

Anne Hallberg-Holt thanked those present for their service and the promise to leave no one behind. She also said Travis "is a base with a real heart" and has always been caring toward POW and the families of MIAs.

The base's chief master sergeants showed part of that caring by presenting the Hallbergs with a \$500 check for the National League of POW/MIA Families.

Seeking help does not end military career

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Throughout September, the nation is observing Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Since 2012, the estimated rate of death by suicide across the Department of Defense has remained about the same per 100,000 people – 20 for active duty members, 24 for reservists and 27 for guard members. The Air Force rate also is estimated at 20 per 100,000 members, according to the DOD Suicide Event Report.

Although DOD offers a wide range of programs to help service members in crisis, a third of the nearly 40,000 people surveyed in 2011 felt that seeking mental health treatment would harm their careers, according

to a DOD health behavior survey.

A 2014 report by the RAND National Defense Research Institute noted that despite the wide range of evidence-based treatments available, the proportion of service members who seek needed treatment remains low.

But the goal of treatment is to help members, said Capt. Brendon Jones, 60th Medical Group at Travis Air Force Base, California, and the suicide prevention program manager at Travis.

"Air Force policy is that seeking mental health treatment should not adversely affect one's career nor have any other negative consequences," said Jones. "Additionally, mental health treatment is private

health information protected by (privacy laws)."

In 2015, about 49 percent of those who committed suicide and 66 percent of those who attempted suicide had a mental diagnosis such as depression or adjustment disorder. Although mental health information generally is not shared with a member's leadership, there are some exceptions, such as when an individual threatens to harm self or others.

"If one of these exceptions applies, some information may be disclosed but only the minimal information necessary," said Jones.

If a member is at increased risk for suicide, their commander and first sergeant may be informed and the member may be temporarily placed on

a duty limiting profile. The profile may include deployment, reassignment or arming restrictions.

"This is so that the service member can get the mental health services they need as well as ensure that the broader Air Force mission is not adversely affected," said Jones.

Once the person's mental health has sufficiently improved, the person is returned to full duties.

"The goal of both mental health and command is that the member be returned to full duty status when ready," said Jones.

Preventing suicides is a primary concern for DOD, which launched its suicide event report in 2008 not only to

and suicidal-related behaviors across the services, but also to analyze and report suicide-related factors.

Common factors include relationship, family and financial issues, legal or administrative problems, substance abuse or a history of past abuse, mental health problems, academic and other life failures and a history of suicide attempts.

At least one of these events factored into 66 percent of suicide cases and 75 percent of suicide attempts from 2012 to 2015.

Having one or several of these factors does not necessarily mean that a person is suicidal and contemplating self-harm. However, these events increase the risk of suicidal

See HELP Page 24

Airman copes with suicidal thoughts

Staff Sgt. Megan Friedl

DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. — Tech. Sgt. Stevi Smalts, a 13-year Airman who's served as both a security forces defender and a professional military education instructor, is a living example of resilience, medical care and supportive leadership combining to prevent suicide, rehabilitate an Airman and eventually return them to duty.

Smalts has lived a life where stress has come in many forms. With two deployments under her belt, she experienced daily mortar attacks and witnessed gruesome post-attack scenes as a first responder. On top of that, she's endured two divorces and watched, traumatically, as her 8-day-old daughter took her last breaths while Smalts embraced the infant. From those terrible

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Travis sergeant saves life, assists Airmen

Staff Sgt. Charles Rivezzo
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"As soon as I got there, she looked lifeless. Her pupils were fixed and she was cyanotic (her skin was blue)."

A 6-year-old girl was just pulled from the bottom of a hotel pool when Senior Master

Sgt. Scott Piper, 60th Air Mobility Wing career assistance adviser, heard shouting.

"I heard a commotion, looked over and knowing my training, it was serious," he said. "I sprinted over there and immediately started CPR; it was that simple to me."

Piper performed CPR for

close to two minutes on the young girl before she showed signs of life.

"Losing her was never an option," said Piper. "With kids, it's more about providing them air in these situations. She started getting her color back and her eyes started moving. We got her back."

After regaining consciousness, Piper engaged with the girl, assessing her status.

"Her name was Jaclyn and I got to know her," he said. "She had a sister who was two, and her name was Jasmine. She was telling me all of this, which was a good sign."

A career Air Force medic, Piper humbly shared this story. To him, this was something "any Airman would have done." But he admitted he missed the adrenaline rush of saving a life.

"I did that for 12 years, so there was that rush that I missed," he said. "It's not something I like doing, but it never gets old ... saving a life."



U.S. Air Force photo

As an independent duty medical technician within the special operations forces community, Senior Master Sgt. Scott Piper, 60th Air Mobility Wing career assistance adviser, provided primary care and emergency medical support to deployed SOF units, enabling casualty evacuation aboard SOF aircraft for the movement of patients from far forward areas in or near a combat zone.

'The back of a helicopter was my ambulance'

Before transitioning to the wing's career assistance adviser position, Piper was an independent duty medical technician within the special operations forces community.

"The back of a helicopter was my ambulance for over 10 years," he said. "My specialty was trauma, and that's what I did for a long time."

The heart and soul of Air Force Special Operations
See SAVES LIFE Page 19



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E-4B stops at Travis on way to air show



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose

An E-4B aircraft sits on the tarmac Sept. 11 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The E-4B participated in a flyover Sept. 9-10 at the California Capital Airshow in Sacramento, Calif.

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Travis helps in hurricane relief has 'what if' element

Ryan McCarthy
DAILY REPUBLIC

Hurricane Irma relief the U.S. Air Force provided introduces a "what if" that military missions don't usually face – the uncertainty of where the hurricane would go, said pilots who flew from Travis in the humanitarian effort.

"The mission is very fluid," Maj. Brad Echols said Sept. 19.

He and Capt Justin Pletcher, aircraft commanders who flew as part of the Air Force's response to the hurricane that reached Florida, spoke in front of C-17s at Travis.

"There's a lot of moving pieces," Pletcher said of the hurricane relief. "As pilots we're only piece of it."

Another Air Force pilot described the C-17 last week as a big aircraft that thinks it's little – "a sports car."

"It's a Ferrari if it's light," Pletcher agreed. "It's a 1960s Volkswagen when it's heavy."

With aircraft often transporting heavy loads as part of

the hurricane relief, the C-17 was more VW than Italian sports car.

What mattered more, though, was the assistance the Air Force was able to provide.

Lt. Col. Tanya Yelverton, who commanded the patient staging team, found the effort as meaningful as did the pilots.

"It was better than I expected – more rewarding," Yelverton said.

Her work included helping to transport 32 patients from a hospital hit by Irma to a safe site.

"They were just very thankful," she said of the patients' reaction to the assistance.

Yelverton and others providing assistance slept two nights on the floor of a hospital in St. Croix. That sleep was welcome, she said.

"Everybody was so exhausted," Yelverton said. "When the mission has to get done you just don't stop."

About 60 members of the 621st Contingency Response Squadron returned Sunday to

Travis after supporting Hurricane Irma relief efforts in the Florida Keys, Lt. Sarah Johnson said.

The 60th Medical Group and

aircrew members from the 21st and 22nd Airlift Squadrons returned late last week from relief operations in St. Croix.

From the initial days after

the disaster to ongoing efforts, teams from Travis have provided rapid humanitarian aid to those affected in Florida and the Caribbean, Johnson said.



Capt. Justin Pletcher, left, and Maj. Brad Echols recently returned to Travis after supporting Hurricane Irma relief efforts in the Florida Keys.

Daily Republic photo/Robinson Kuntz

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Airmen make arctic security expedition

Tech. Sgt. Dan DeCook
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON — While the Air Force is developing strategy to align efforts in the Arctic's blistering cold with greater Defense Department strategy in the region, it's also working to build international Arctic partnerships.

For the first time in Air Force history, a collection of senior leaders went on an expedition to the Arctic. The operation, named Uggianaqtuq, put members from the Air Force's headquarters staff and major commands in places only a handful of others have ever seen.

Beginning with stops at Eielson Air Force Base, Clear Air Station and Long Range Radar Site Point Barrow, Alaska, the expedition members were given firsthand knowledge about what it takes operate in the coldest climates in the U.S.

Departing the U.S., the first international stop on the expedition was Thule Air Base, Greenland, for discussion on strategic geography, international treaties and a mission brief from the 821st Air Base Group.

See EXPEDITION Page 14



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Dan DeCook

Air Force senior leaders hike on a glacier Sept. 12 near Illulissat, Greenland. The senior leaders were in Greenland, Canada and Alaska as part of Operation Uggianaqtuq, an Arctic Security Expedition to better understand the challenges of working in the climate and to build relationships with allies and partners there.

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After Irma, CRW Airmen deploy to help out

Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING

MARATHON, Fla. — The 821st Contingency Response Group from Travis Air Force Base, California, alerted a 64-person Contingency Response Element to Marathon Regional Airport, located in the Florida Keys, where they arrived in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, Sept. 11.

Hurricane Irma, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the Atlantic, hit Florida as a Category 4 storm the morning of Sept. 10.

According to Florida officials, the hurricane tore through the state ripping off roofs, flooding coastal cities, and knocking out power for millions of people.

In the aftermath of devastating situations, such as Hurricane Irma, the 621st Contingency Response Wing is poised and ready to provide swift and coordinated relief effort, as directed, to save the lives and alleviate human suffering.

The CRW is a bi-costal, agile unit, made up of approximately 1,500 Airmen, whose forces are primarily stationed at both

Travis Air Force Base, California, and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

As requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through Northern Command Air Operations Center, the wing deployed more than 200 Airmen to multiple locations in the Caribbean and across Florida.

The CR forces are part of a larger Department of Defense response to support authorities in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

"We are a mission ready,

mobile force that is deployable within 12 hours of notice and the Marathon mission was right in our wheelhouse," said Lt. Col. Blaine Baker, 821st Contingency Response Squadron commander.

The team departed Travis AFB within seven hours after their initial deployment notification, and landed in Marathon the night of Sept. 11 ready to perform 24-hour operations.

The role of CR forces during this disaster relief mission was to rapidly respond with critical-ly needed capabilities to deliver

assistance and aid in the relief efforts as directed. In many cases, the CRW is one of the first units to arrive to the disaster locations.

When the team arrived to Florida, they immediately went to work partnering the CRE with U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps teams, and started working alongside FEMA, State of Florida officials and the local community.

Due to the environment effects following the hurricane, there was a limited supply of

See IRMA Page 14

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AF Marathon celebrates 70th birthday

John Harrington
88TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Partly cloudy skies and warm temperatures welcomed approximately 13,500 runners and walkers from all 50 states and 16 foreign countries to take part in the 21st annual U.S. Air Force Marathon at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Sept. 16.

Gen. Ellen M. Pawlikowski, Air Force Materiel Command commander, gave opening comments, welcoming throngs of colorfully dressed runners from all walks of life.

"This is, most importantly, our birthday celebration. Many of you may not realize this but the Air Force marathon was started in 1997 as part of our celebration, and this year is a very special birthday for the Air Force because it's our 70th birthday," Pawlikowski said. "The future is in the Americans that every day volunteer to protect our freedoms and put themselves in harm's way so that we can be out here today."

Col. Bradley McDonald, 88th Air Base Wing and installation commander, said he often hears appreciation for the efforts of the more than 2,400 volunteers from the community and base bringing this annual event to life.

"When you talk to the runners, one thing that keeps coming up is their appreciation for our outstanding volunteers. That's what they say sets our U.S. Air Force Marathon apart from all others, and I couldn't agree more," McDonald said. "The Miami Valley community really comes together with our exceptional Airmen to make this a world class event. I am very proud of each and every one of them."

The three-day event kicked off Sept. 14, with a free sports and fitness expo at Wright State University's Nutter Center. More than 100 exhibitors filled the court's floor and concourse, featuring the latest fitness clothing, nutrition and gear. Along with exhibitors, guest

speakers instructed attendees on pacing and use of yoga in fitness, and an F-22 cockpit simulator gave guests a first-hand look at Air Force innovation.

Pre-race activities included the Breakfast of Champions Sept. 15, featuring guest speaker, former U.S. Army Special Forces officer and published author Ivan Castro. Castro lost his eyesight in a mortar blast in Iraq in 2006 and served as the only blind Special Forces Soldier in the Army until his retirement in 2016. Castro also spoke at the expo, and later at the annual Gourmet Pasta Dinner at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Lt. Gen. Robert D. McMurry, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center commander,

applauded the determination to overcome challenges by not only marathon runners but Airmen as well.

"I'm amazed by the commitment and dedication to training each athlete made to overcome this challenge," McMurry said. "Just like our United States Air Force, these runners came here to 'Fly, Fight and Win' their own personal battle against time. Many of these same people display the same fortitude every day in support of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center and I'm proud to have them in the command."

Tailwind, the official Air Force Marathon mascot introduced last year, made a return to the event, entertaining adults

See MARATHON Page 24



U.S. Air Force photo/Wesley Farnsworth

Runners take off for the start of the 21st annual U.S. Air Force Marathon Sept. 16 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. More than 13,500 runners participated in a 5K, 10K, half and full marathons, supported by more than 2,400 volunteers.

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Irma

From Page 12

potable water, food, and access to power. With support from the local authorities, team members delivered 10,933 cases of Meals Ready to Eat and 16,917 cases of water to the local population.

"It was truly a multimodal effort," said Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Garbarini, 821st CRS chief enlisted manager. "We received relief supplies, processed them and then got them ready for the people in need."

"In the early stages, we were sending out water and food via helicopters," Garbarini said. "They flew in, picked up as many supplies as they could, and then dropped them off at various points of delivery around the region."

As the roadways started becoming safe for driving, the team started sending supplies through the Army and their

light medium tactical vehicles.

The team opened aerial port operations for Marathon, which allowed air passage for relief supplies. In total, the CRE-led joint team supported 250 fixed-wing and rotary-wing missions, and offloaded 261 passengers and 1,000,000 pounds of critical relief supplies, including critical sustainment equipment.

"Directly helping fellow Americans in need in and around the Marathon area was the best part of this operation," Garbarini added. "Seeing the outpouring of relief supplies coming from all over the United States was also impressive to witness."

Additionally, the team partnered CRE Air Traffic Controllers with a Florida Army National Guard Air Traffic Control team to provide air traffic deconfliction at the airfield. Their joint efforts enabled a safe operating environment through the positive deconfliction of over 1,000

aircraft transitioning the Marathon airspace.

"We hone our skills in joint training exercises like Turbo Distribution and Mobility Guardian," Garbarini added. "One of our (CRW's) core competencies is humanitarian disaster relief. It also helps that we have a ready, agile force, postured on alert and ready to go in a moment's notice."

"Operations at Marathon were highly successful," Baker said. "It was a joint and interagency effort, and our Airmen accomplished their mission with distinction and instilled confidence in CR forces across the community and joint force."

The CRE support for Marathon relief efforts is complete and the airfield is transitioning back to normal operations. The 821st CRG returned to Travis AFB earlier this week. The team has assumed alert once again, postured to deploy if called upon to support relief efforts for Hurricane Maria.

Expedition

From Page 11

After stops at missile warning, missile defense and space situational awareness radar sites, the group headed north and landed on an icy runway just 55 miles from the North Pole at Canadian Forces Station Alert.

"When you step off the plane in Alert, Canada, you quickly realize you're about as far away as you can be from other humans without leaving the planet," said Col. Robert Novotny, Air Combat Command deputy director of plans and programs. "It's like being stranded on a remote desert island - except the frigid temperatures and ice are trying to kill you."

The stop in Alert wasn't just to put these general officers on a frozen tundra that seemed like endless ice fields in each direction, though.

"We are here because we, as an Air Force, must strengthen partnerships with our Arctic allies and develop operational proficiency in some of the toughest climates," said Lt. Gen. Mark Nowland, Air Force

deputy chief of staff for operations. "We are an Arctic nation, and we need to know as much about the Arctic as we can to ensure it remains stable and free of conflict."

After touring the Canadian-run station, the group boarded their Royal Canadian Defence Force C-17 for Thule AB before heading south to Illulisat, Greenland, to meet with Armed Forces Denmark's Joint Arctic Command.

"(When) you hear you are meeting with the Danish Armed Forces, you expect to meet with a professional military force that knows how to operate in the coldest places," said Gen. Ellen Pawlikowski, commander of Air Force Material Command. "What we didn't expect was to be put on a helicopter and flown onto a glacier."

The members of the expedition boarded a helicopter and flew 45 miles from the western coast of the largest island on the planet and dropped off on top of a glacier that is more than 110 miles long. The glacier trip was important to see just how daunting the task of search and rescue can be in the most remote locations.



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Air Force celebrates service's 70th birthday

1) Team members from the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal unit rest after they finished their part of a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action 24-hour relay, Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 2) Retired Lt. Gen. John Gonge, second from left, Navy veteran Jerry Simoni, center, seated, and the retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, second from right, pose for a photo at the Air Force Gala. 3) Chief Master Sgt. Steve Nichols, 60th Air Mobility Wing command chief, delivers opening remarks Sept. 14 before the start of the POW/MIA run. The objective is to keep the flag in constant motion for a 24-hour period. 4) Col. John Klein, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, provides remarks during the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony Sept. 15 at Travis. 5) Bruce Hallberg, whose brother is still missing in action from the Vietnam War, provides remarks during the POW/MIA ceremony. 6) Airmen assigned to the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron participate Sept. 15 in the POW/MIA. 7) A veteran listens to a guest speaker during the POW/MIA recognition ceremony. The ceremony was held in conjunction with National POW/MIA Recognition Day and included a 24-hour vigil run.



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch



Courtesy photo



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch



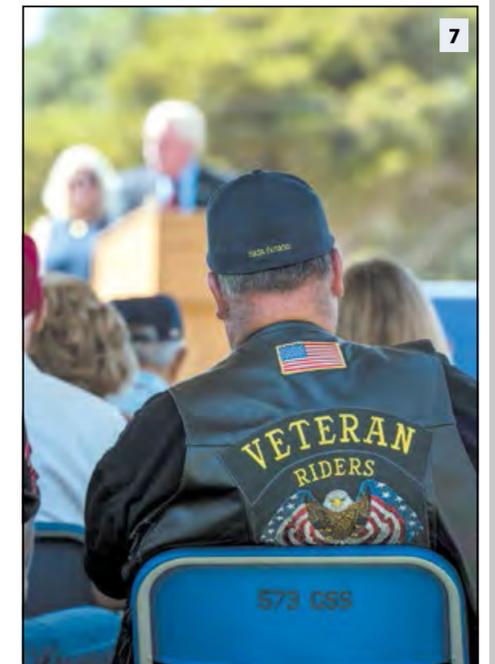
U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese



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U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford



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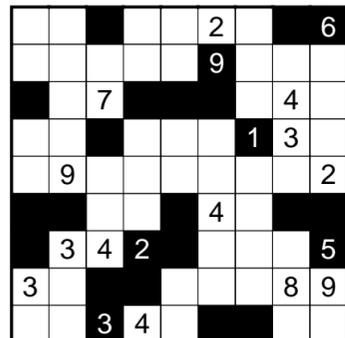
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Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 352 Medium



Previous solution - Tough

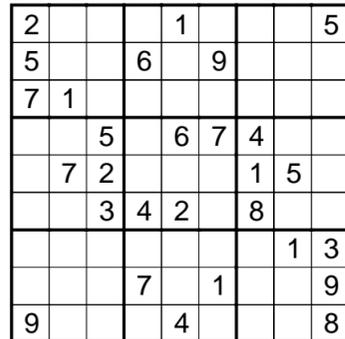


How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

You can find more help, tips and hints at www.str8ts.com

SUDOKU

No. 352 Medium



Previous solution - Easy



To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

If you like Str8ts, Sudoku and other puzzles, check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store at www.str8ts.com

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Retiree Corner

Armed Forces retirees celebrate 70th AF birthday

WASHINGTON — Joint Base Andrews, Maryland members and veterans celebrated the Air Force's 70th birthday Sept. 7 at the Armed Forces Retirement

Home in Washington, D.C. More than 50 people attended the event, which ended with a special cake cutting ceremony and involved the Vanguard V-21 sword that symbolized the sacrifices made by past armed forces members.

— Air Force News Service

News Notes

Road construction. Takes place at the intersection of Air Base Parkway at Clay Bank Road from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Oct. 5. Expect delays in each direction, as lanes will be controlled down to one in each direction. Due to this work, Clay Bank Road will be shut down with limited access Sept. 14-16. East and westbound traffic on Air Base Parkway attempting to use Clay Bank Road will be detoured onto Dover Avenue and Peabody Road, respectively. Traffic control and detour sign will be in place to assist drivers.

Flu shots available. Influenza season is rapidly approaching. Active duty members can annual get flu shots beginning Monday at the David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, California. All other TRICARE beneficiaries can get immunized beginning Sept. 18. Flu shots are available in the Influenza Room, which is located on the first floor across from Internal Medicine. Flu shots are strongly recommended for high-risk populations, which includes children 5 years and younger, adults age 65 and older and pregnant women. For more information, call the Allergy and Immunization Clinic at 707-423-5107.

Hire G.I. event. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Delta Breeze Club. Register at hiregi.com.

60th FSS

Events and information

Volunteer coaches. To volunteer, call 707-424-5392 or pickup your volunteer packet at the Youth Center.

◆◆◆ For more information on FSS, visit <http://www.travisfss.com>.

Chapel programs

Recurring events

Catholic Twin Peaks Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: 9 a.m. and noon Sunday.
- Children's Church: 10:15 a.m. Sunday.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday or upon appointment.

- Infant Baptism Prep Class: Two classes. Registration Required. 6 to 7 p.m., offered quarterly.
- Youth Choir: 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Choir: 2 p.m. Sunday.
- Adult Choir: 4 p.m. Sunday.
- Women's Bible Study: 10 a.m. (at First Street Chapel).
- Catholic Women of the Chapel: 6 p.m. first Monday of every month, Annex.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Annex.
- RE Classes: 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, RE Wing.

First Street Chapel

- Mom's Group: 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday.

In the next week...

sat

Bike & Brew Experience. On Sept. 23, jump on a giant, pedal-powered cycle that transports you from pub to pub. This trip is for those 21 years of age and older. For \$50, transportation to and from the bike stop is included and certain restrictions apply. To register or for more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 707-424-0969.

Candypalooza. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 23-24, Jelly Belly Visitor Center, One Jelly Belly Lane, Fairfield. www.candypalooza.jellybelly.com.

National Alpaca Farm Days. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 23-24, Menagerie Hill Ranch, 4701 Norman Court and Ahh Sweet Alpacas, 7924 Charlotte Lane. Both are in Vacaville. www.sweetalpacas.com.

Oktoberfest. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 23, Town Square, Vacaville. www.downtownvacaville.com.

Passport service. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 23 at the Napa Post Office in Napa, Calif. Applications are taken on a walk-in basis. For information about required

application forms or more information, call 877-487-2778 or email npic@state.gov.

wed

Back to School Outdoor Sale. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 27-30 at the Travis Commissary. Enjoy up to 50 percent off regular retail price on a variety of products The sale will take place on the side parking lot of the store.

Civilian personnel retirement seminars. 8-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Base Theater. Morning session for Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees Retirement System employees, afternoon FERS only. Attendance requires approval from supervisor. For more information, contact Alex Fabila at mario.fabila.1@us.af.mil or 424-1720.

thu

AFGE 20th annual member appreciation picnic. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Travis Heritage Center. Buffet lunch, free raffle prizes, cake. \$10 nonmembers. For more information, call 707-437-2693.

at 6 p.m. Tuesday's followed at 7 p.m. by Bible study.

◆◆◆ For more information about chapel programs, call Twin Peaks Chapel at 707-424-3217.

Recurring

Air Force Office of Special Investigations. To report a crime, get a foreign travel brief or request information on joining AFOSI, report to Bldg. 380B, second floor. Send correspondence to AFOSI Detachment 303, 510 Airlift CR, Travis AFB, 94535. For more information, call 707-424-3115 or DSN: 837-3115.

Air Force Sergeants Association "Walter E. Scott" Chapter 1320. General membership meetings are at 3 p.m. on the second Friday of every month at Wingman's in the Delta Breeze Club. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Angell Nichols or Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Linden de Romero. **Airmen's Attic.** The Airmen's Attic is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, 560 Hickam Ave. For more information, call 707-424-8740 or visit the Facebook page "The Attic at Travis AFB."

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group. Meetings take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the diabetic education classroom on the first floor in Internal Medicine at David Grant USAF Medical Center. For more information, call 707-423-7227.

Base emergency numbers. Mobile phone users must dial 707-424-4911 if they have an emergency on base. Those using government or home phones can call 911. For more information, call the Travis Air Force Base Fire Prevention Office at 707-424-3683.

Crisis text line. Free, confidential, 24/7 counseling for teens and young adults. Text 741-741 anywhere in the United States and a live, trained crisis counselor responds quickly.

Employee-Vehicle Certification and Reporting System. Civilian and military personnel must maintain emissions information with the Web-based ECARS system. For more information, call Xuyen Lieu at 707-424-5103.

Exceptional Family Member Program Sensory Play Group. This group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays at the Balfour Beatty Community Center. For more information, call 707-424-4342 or visit the Facebook page "EFMP Travis AFB."

Fairfield/Vacaville Train Station Project. Located at Peabody Road and Vanden Road in Fairfield with a six-lane overpass. Construction is scheduled for completion in October. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1yNlBwV>.

Family Advocacy Parent/Child playgroups. Toddlers to the Max Playgroup for children ages 1 to 3 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. The Rattles to Raspberries Playgroup for infants 8 weeks to 1 year meets 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. For more information, call 707-423-5168.

Family and Friends Combat Stress Peer Support Group. Meets from noon to 1 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month at the Balfour Beatty Community Center and from 1-2 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at The Peak. For more information, contact Amber Quirate and Jessica Soto at 501-231-7756 or email travspocom-batpdsj@gmail.com.

Government no-fee passports. All submissions of applications for government no-fee passports must now include: 1) A photocopy of Military Identification Card front and back; 2) Passport photo taken in the past six months; 3) Supporting document(s), proof of U.S. citizenship certified copy with state or county seal, if it involved a name change submit a court order or marriage certificate. Passport application cannot be handwritten and printed back to back and must be completed online with 2D barcode at <https://pplform.state.gov> and/or <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

Hometown News Releases. To submit a

Hometown News Release, visit <https://jhrs.release.dma.mil/public> and fill out the information.

LGBT Alliance. General membership meetings take place at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. For more information, email lgbtalliance707@gmail.com or call 707-424-2486.

Mare Island Museum. Now a Blue Star Museum, which means active-duty military, reservists and their family members are eligible for free admission from Memorial Day to Labor Day. 1100 Railroad Ave. on Mare Island in Vallejo. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 707-557-4646.

M-50 Gas Mask Fit Testing. Takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at Bldg. 791. All deployers are fit as necessary. For more information, call 707-424-2689.

Mitchell Memorial Library. Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday.

Montezuma Shrine Club. Meets every third Thursday of the month at the Masonic Center, 412 Travis Blvd., Fairfield. For more information, call Mike Michaels at 707-427-2573 or Cal Githsam at 707-425-0060.

Motorcycle licensing and training. California Rider Education offers the Motorcyclists Training Course, Basic Riders Course 2 and the Military Sportsbike Riders Course on base. MTC classes take place most weekends. Motorcycles and helmets provided. Successful completion gives students a DL389 that waives the skills test at DMV. Course cost covered for active duty, reserves, some DOD and NAF folks. Family members welcome, but must cover own costs. All registrations done via phone at 1-800-966-3844.

On-base child care. The Air Force requires on-base residents to be licensed by the 60th Mission Support Group if they provide more than 10 hours of care per week in their homes. For more information, call 707-424-8104 or 707-424-4596 or stop by Bldg. 380B.

Photocopying of military identification. The prohibition of photocopying of U.S. government identification Common Access Card announced by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, dated Oct. 27, 2011, does not apply to medical establishments, applying for government-issued, no-fee passport and other U.S. government agencies in the performance of official government business. This requirement does not apply to minors ages 16 or younger. However, it applies



Here are the showtimes for this weekend's movies at the Base Theater:

Today
• 6:30 p.m. "All Saints" (PG)
• 9 p.m. "The Hitman's Bodyguard" (R)
Saturday
• 6:30 p.m. "The Glass Castle" (PG-13)
• 9 p.m. "Annabelle: Creation" (R)
Sunday
• 2 p.m. "Leap" (PG)

to sponsors. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

Professional Loadmaster Association. The Professional Loadmaster Association meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Delta Breeze Club. For more information, call Mark Raymond at 707-416-5331.

Retiree Activities Office. Openings for volunteers. Customers are retired American service members and their family members. It is the RAO's responsibility to maintain open communication and to ensure retirees receive the service and the respect they deserve. If you would like to apply for a volunteer slot and have three hours or more to give, call 707-424-3905.

SGLI and vRED. The Record of Emergency Data, aka vRED, and the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance form are two of the most-critical documentation a service member is responsible for maintaining throughout a military career.

Commanders, Casualty Assistance personnel and Mortuary Affairs personnel rely heavily on these two documents as a vital source of information when a crisis occurs resulting in serious injury or death of the service member.

60th Air Mobility Wing Information Protection Office. The office has the following walk-in customer service window hours: 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday as well as window hours from 8 to 11 a.m. Friday. For emergencies, call 707-424-3114.

Solano/Napa Habitat for Humanity. This organization welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds. There are recurring events Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, email Staff Sgt. Mathew Clayton at mathew.clayton@us.af.mil.

Toastmasters. The Travis Toastmasters meets at noon on the first and third Tuesday of the month in the USO Lounge. Toastmasters is an organization that helps people practice communication, as well as build on skills they already have. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call Nicole Culberhouse at 478-273-1760.

Travis Community Thrift Shop. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Ongoing need for volunteers to organize, sort and price donations. For more information, contact the Thrift Shop at 707-437-2370.

Travis Composite Squadron 22 Civil Air Patrol. Open to youth from 12 to 18, as well as adults ages 18 or older who train and serve as the volunteer component of the total force. UTA is 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, Bldg. 241-B-2. Open to all students with a 2.0 or higher grade-point average. For more information, contact CAP 1st Lt. Jo Nash at 707-424-3996 or recruiting@squadron22-cap.us, visit during a UTA or check out <http://squadron22-cap.us>.

Travis Heritage Center. The facility is looking to add to its historical collection. It is missing the past 15 years of conflict in which Travis was involved. Do you have something special to donate for generations to appreciate? The center also seeks volunteers. The gift shop is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call Rick Shea at 707-424-5598 or email richard.shea@us.af.mil.

THE FLIP SIDE

Travis Legal Office. Power of attorney and notaries are walk-ins 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday. Legal assistance for active duty members and dependents are walk-ins from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday. For all wills and retiree legal assistance, call 707-424-3251 to make an appointment.

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

- Cheryl Brown, 60th Air Mobility Wing.
- Timothy Miller, 60th Medical Support Squadron.

The VLTP allows an employee who has a medical emergency or is affected by a medical emergency of a family member and is without availability of paid leave to receive transferred annual leave directly from other employees. For more information, call 707-424-1720.

Tuskegee Airman Lee A. Archer Chapter. Meets at 1 p.m. third Saturday of the month at Nut Tree Airport. For more information, call James Harris at 707-631-6361.

What's Cookin' Wednesday. Free lunch at the Travis AFB USO building 1348. Served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday. For active duty, Guard, reservist and their families.

Local events

Events

Art, Wine & Chocolate Festival. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 7, Suisun City waterfront, Main and Solano Streets. Free admission. <http://>

suisunwaterfront.com. **Dixon Scottish Highland Games.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 30, Dixon May Fairgrounds, 655 S. First St., Dixon. www.scotisdixon.org.

Fairfield Farmers Market. 3 p.m. Thursdays, through Oct. 5, Jefferson and Texas streets. www.fairfieldmainstreet.com.

Family & Food Truck Fair. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. second Saturday of each month, through October, Jefferson and Texas streets, Fairfield. www.fairfieldmainstreet.com.

First Wednesdays at the Suisun City Train Depot Plaza. Food, wine and music, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 4, 177 Main St. www.suisunwaterfront.com.

Food Truck Mania. 4 to 8 p.m. second Sunday of each month, through September, Andrews Park, Monte Vista Avenue and School Street, Vacaville. www.creekwalkevents.com.

Friday Nights at the Farm. 5 to 9 p.m. Oct. 13, Green Valley Road at Vintage Lane, Fairfield. www.gvagconservancy.org.

Ghost Tour. 8 p.m. Sept. 23, Oct. 21, leaves from Lawler House, 718 Main St., Suisun City and 8 p.m. Oct. 20, leaves from Virgil's Bait Shop, 201 Main St., Suisun City. www.suisunwaterfront.com.

Ghost Walk. 8 p.m. Oct. 6-7, Oct. 20-21, 90 Main St., downtown Benicia. 745-9791, www.beniciamainstreet.org.

Haunted Vacaville Ghost Walk. 8 p.m. Oct. 11, 618 E. Main St. <https://fareharbor.com>.

The Hub. Open mic, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 29; Poetry by the Bay open mic, 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays, 350 Georgia St., Vallejo. www.thehubvallejo.com.

Saves life

From Page 6

Command's medical capability, SOF medical elements provide primary care and emergency medical support to deployed AFSOC or SOF units, enabling casualty evacuation aboard SOF aircraft for the movement of patients from far forward areas in or near a combat zone.

During his time as an IDMT within the AFSOC community, Piper had seven deployments and countless "down and back" missions to battlefields around the world. It was within this community, where he fortified the values he lives by.

"I live my life by the 4 F's: faith, family, the force and football," said Piper with a smile. "The Air Force is an extension of family and in the SOF

community that's where it was most prevalent. To me, I joined the Air Force because I didn't know any better, not because I was ignorant, but because I know nothing better than the Air Force. That's all I know and I wouldn't change a thing."

A 'medical guy raised by a defender'

Teaching and coaching are passions for Piper and his position as the CAA has afforded him the opportunity to lay the foundation for a revamped professional development program at Travis.

"Teaching is inherent to leadership," said Piper. "Any great leader out there teaches, whether deliberate or not. To provide information is one of the greatest gifts you can give someone."

As evident by his medical background, Piper has a

passion for assisting others; not just on the battlefield or at the side of a pool, but in professional development and pursuit of their career goals.

The passion to assist explains his latest initiative, "Droppin' DIMEs." Droppin' DIMEs is a direct reflection of Piper's affinity for sports and stands for Develop, Inform, Mentor and Educate.

"In sports, a dime is an assist," he said. "An assist is setting someone else up in a position of success so that they can score a point or a goal. That is what leaders do, we assist our Airmen."

During his tenure as the CAA, he's expanded upon the traditional norms of military professional development. For the first time, professional development courses are not confined to just the service member, as PDCs are now available

to civilians as well as dependents over the age of 18.

Moreover, Travis' PDP now includes a weekly lunch-and-learn every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., monthly John Maxwell Leadership Courses, a Superintendent Symposium and TT3 Development courses.

Piper believes that, "it takes a village to take care of our Airmen" and encourages others to

join him in Droppin' DIMEs. He highlighted that diversity is the key to developing Airmen.

"I'm a medical guy, raised by a defender, with a SOF background," said Piper. "We need people with diverse backgrounds instructing these courses and anyone has the opportunity to lead."

For more information on development programs, contact Piper at 707-816-DIME (3463).

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Web Site: www.stpaulfairfield.com
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Smith

From Page 2

Nights stretched on, pain visited regularly and I admit there were powerful waves of hopelessness washing over me. I wondered if I would die soon. I wondered if I would ever again do things I loved doing. Simple thoughts like, could I ever drink my beloved coffee, or eat my favorite things haunted me. Would I walk more than 10 feet without rest?

It was really pathetic at times, but none the less, between pain medicine and long, dark nights alone with the beeps and the glow of the vital signs monitors, I was not in a great state of mind. It felt like I would be there the rest of my life.

My wife spent time with me and that was always wonderful but, due to life continuing outside of my misery, couldn't be there around the clock. Things turned positive on Friday, May 12. It was Wingman Day and I was about to experience the

benefits of this process first hand.

A knock at my door started it all. The familiar faces of my 21st Space Wing Public Affairs team mates filled the door frame and many of my coworkers filed in to the room. My heart swelled at the show of care and camaraderie, a risky thing in my position if you recall. But none the less, there they were. We talked a little and goofed off a little. It was not a long visit, but the impact was amazing.

At the risk of sounding very cheesy, I say that show of solidarity, friendship and yes, wingmanship had a profound impact on my frame of mind and resiliency to push through pain and things out of my control. They may not know how much it meant; they will after reading this.

The message I want to convey is simple, yet within the power and ability of anyone reading these words. It is just this: the support you give to your wingman in a time of

need – be it a visit, a text message, or note – is powerful stuff. It is the stuff that bolsters resiliency and the stuff that lifts a person to press forward and not give up.

To my public affairs family, I and my family thank you deeply. To the rest of the 21st Space Wing Knights, the Airmen, civilians and contractors making up Team Pete, the few moments you give to support your wingman is going to make a difference. No, it will make the difference.

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Copes

From Page 5

experiences, she started to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety.

Those after effects eventually led to suicidal thoughts and recently, she almost went through with it. Yet in her darkest moments, and feelings of hopelessness she began to think of the ones she loved and who loved her.

"I thought about my funeral and over 400 students I taught in front of for four years. I thought about my best friends and when it really hit me, it was my kids," Smalts said. "I just thought about how many people would be left wondering what happened."

The thought of taking something away from so many people and the suffering inflicted on those she loved most stopped her from going through with suicide.

Smalts immediately sought help and since then has overcome her struggles. Through her times of despair, she wants her story told so other service members and veterans can hopefully find the strength to keep living, just like she did.

"For those that know her, she has done an enormous amount of work for the Air Force," said 1st Lt. Steven Haberkorn, 341st

Security Forces Squadron flight commander. "She has given a lot (in order) to better people she barely knows."

Haberkorn, along with Senior Master Sgt. Eric Butt, 341st SFS first sergeant, characterized Smalts as a dedicated NCO who continuously improved the lives of those around her by dedicating herself to the development, mentorship and leadership of her Airmen.

The night of Smalts' near-suicide, both Haberkorn and Butt were on scene and continue to be involved in her recovery on a daily basis.

"Thankfully, she realized she had too much to live for. I've done my best to be her backbone throughout this entire situation," said Haberkorn. "I set aside my personal life and gave her my undivided attention, talked with squadron leadership, and tried to put her in a position to get better."

Smalts said she is very grateful for her first sergeant, commander, other leadership and the mental health professionals who have worked with her and been supportive during this entire process. Smalts received outpatient treatment and counseling during her recovery and found those sessions to be some of the most beneficial parts of her recovery.

After reflecting on the night she almost committed suicide, she said, "I had a bad night, and

one that I will probably regret for the rest of my life, but it was one that has gotten me to get the help that I needed. I'm in recovery and I love it. I love how happy I am. Sometimes the biggest mistakes we make are huge blessings in disguise and I think this was one of those."

Oftentimes getting help for mental, behavioral or substance use disorders is thought of as a weakness. However, seeking help and treatment could possibly be the strongest step someone can make to get better.

"We, as an Air Force, have got to do better," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright. "We must find a way to ensure every Airman feels they can safely seek help, encourage those Airmen to utilize available resources, and continue to reduce the stigma of seeking help from mental health professionals. We must listen to our Airmen, build professional relationships and speak up when we notice warning signs."

"Not only must we listen to our Airmen, we have to listen to the Airmen who have been there," Wright said. "They've hit rock bottom and through support of their unit and helping agencies, found a way out. These success stories save lives. They shine a light on the issue and reaffirm those who are struggling that they are better and stronger than suicide."



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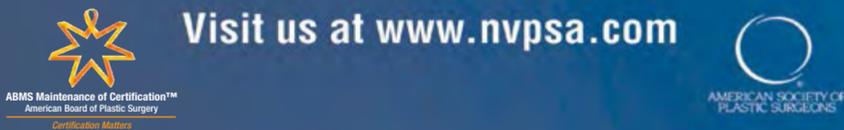


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Help

From Page 5

behaviors when compared with people who have not experienced such events, according to the Defense Suicide Prevention Office.

If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts, contact a health care professional or mental health, said Jones.

People also can call the

DOD Peer Support Call and Outreach Center 24/7 at (844) 357-PEER (7337) or text 480-360-6188. Communications between the member and peer counselors are confidential.

Other resources include the Military Crisis Line at (800) 273-8255, or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1 (800) 273-8255. To have a confidential online chat session, contact the Veterans Crisis Line at <http://www.VeteransCrisis-Line.net/chat>.

Marathon

From Page 13

and children alike as participants celebrated the Air Force's 70th birthday. Brand new signage, banners and finish line were produced specifically for the event. This year's marathon featured the F-22 Raptor and P-51 Mustang in a joint flyover, highlighting Air Force technology, both new and historic.

In addition, and for the first time, misting stations along the course, and at the finish line, helped runner's cool down to enhance their comfort. The efforts were all part of making the marathon the best possible for attendees.

"Every year, for me, is more special and better," said Rob Aguiar, the Air Force Marathon race director. "The only reason is because the team, who's much smarter than I am, are learning and executing."

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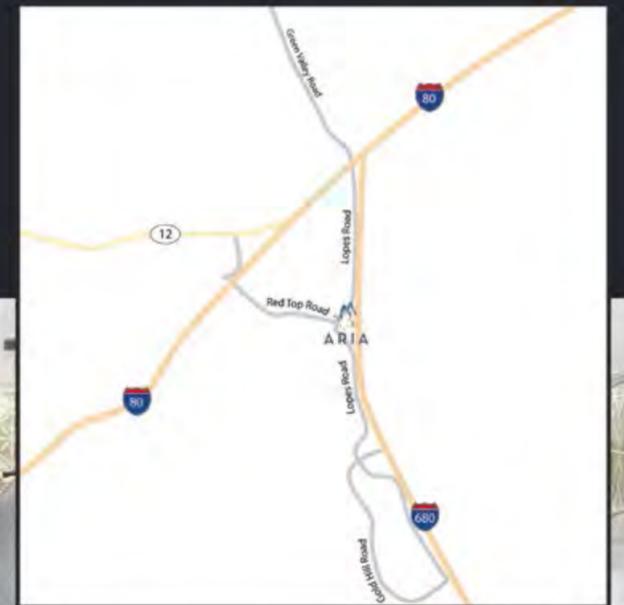
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- Able to provide own vehicular transportation to and from assignments. Proof of valid automobile insurance required.

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- List the features of your product or service. What makes it different from other items in the same category?
- Avoid abbreviations. They can abbreviate your results. (The Tailwind uses only standard abbreviations and requires proper punctuation.)
- Include the price.
- Include your phone number and the best times to call.

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Copy Acceptance: The Tailwind reserves the right to classify all advertisements, to delete objectionable words or phrases or to edit or refuse any advertisement. Classified advertisements are accepted in good faith and must specify a bonafide offer. The Tailwind accepts only standard abbreviations and requires proper punctuation. Better results will be secured from ads that are easily read and understood.

Cancellations: Deadlines for ad cancellations are the same as those for placing ads. You will be billed only for the days your ad actually runs, unless it is a special rate package.

Payment: All ads are accepted subject to credit approval. (Some classifications must be pre-paid). The Tailwind may require payment in full before accepting new ad copy or require cash with copy.

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To place, correct or cancel an ad. To ensure publication, the advertiser must meet the current deadline schedule. In the event of a holiday, special section, or unforeseen circumstances, advance deadlines may be in effect.

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Avery Greene Honda would like to thank current and past Military personnel for their service.

During the month of September we will be extending our appreciation for the service and sacrifices that our current enlisted military and veterans have contributed for the freedom of our country. Avery Greene Honda will give you an additional \$500 Discount off the purchase of a 2016 or newer Honda during the month of September.

* Honda offer applies to New previously unregistered Honda's not Used Cars.

In appreciation of their military service, Honda is offering select U.S. Military individuals and their spouses \$500 toward any 2016 or newer model year Honda when they finance or lease through Honda Financial Services™ (HFS).

Honda Military Appreciation Offer is available to individuals who are:

- ★ Active Duty U.S. Military, (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, National Guard, Coast Guard and Active Reserve) and their spouses.
- ★ Active Duty U.S. Military Ready Reserve, (Inactive National Guard, Individual Ready Reserve, Selected Reserve) and their spouses.
- ★ U.S. Military Veterans who are within 180 days of separation from active service, and their spouses.
- ★ U.S. Military Retirees (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, National Guard, Coast Guard and Active Reserve).
- ★ Spouses of U.S. Military Retirees (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, National Guard, Coast Guard and Active Reserve) who are within 180 days of separation from active service.

Eligible customers must meet the following conditions at the time of purchase:

- ★ Provide Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) as proof of military status or active service at the time of purchase or lease.
- ★ Spouses of a member of the U.S. Military must provide proof of relationship by presenting a Military ID, and provide spouse's LES. Only a copy of the LES will be retained by the dealership for verification.
- ★ Receive credit approval through Honda Financial Services.
- ★ Lease: \$500 is applied toward the cap cost of vehicle. Monthly payment and total due at lease signing are calculated after \$500 reduction. Purchase: \$500 is applied toward the down payment.

Only one \$500 Military Appreciation Certificate per vehicle. The certificate can be combined with all other Honda Financial Services programs, except Zero Due at Signing Lease program. Offer valid through March 31, 2018 unless terminated earlier by HFS.



NOTE: During the term of the retail installment finance contract or lease with Honda Financial Services, buyer may not take their vehicle outside the United States without the prior written consent of Honda Financial Services. During the term of the retail installment finance contract or lease, buyer must notify Honda financial Services immediately of any change in the buyer's address.

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Rouleau

From Page 2

When trust and intent are unmistakably established, Airmen will Fly, Fight, and Win. To be sure, the intrepid play may not execute exactly as planned. Don't worry. With trust and intent, instead of running a post route, Airmen may read the defense at the line of scrimmage and have the conviction to take a risk and run a fly pattern.

Leadership expert, Simon Sinek recognized that trust is, "Critical for humans because when trusts exists, we dare to take risks, experiment and explore because we know that somebody is watching our back."

In essence, Sinek was describing our organic wingman culture.

Trust is paramount

As squadron commanders, our highest obligation is to be that wingman. Trust and confidence is paramount to winning, as is the willingness to fail and learn.

Throwing long on a fourth down recognizes failure as a teachable moment and establishes a command culture that values learning. Airmen will not fly every mission perfectly; Airmen will not catch every ball. Undoubtedly, we disappoint from time-to-time. If we don't practice throwing the long ball in peacetime, we will never have the confidence to throw it in wartime. This lesson is not new.

Red Flag was created for this very reason. The first 10 missions at Red Flag are designed to replicate the first 10 combat missions. Playing it safe in Nevada's desert is easy, and low risk. Those same safe choices may not be possible or feasible in combat.

If an Airman is encouraged to make calculated risks during peacetime, he or she will be confident to execute decisions when danger is imminent. Fear of failure should not drive decision-making. Failure in the Nevada desert, during peacetime, is a teachable moment. We should encourage these moments.

Changing our playbook is not easy. We will be challenged

by those entrenched with the idea of punting. Worse, if we call a deep throw on fourth-and-one, and are unsuccessful, our command may be in jeopardy.

It's a price worth paying. Find comfort that Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell was challenged when he questioned the establishment, too. Remember, Mitchell publicly questioned the Navy's role as America's first line of defense. Secretary of War, Newton Baker, did not believe an aircraft could sink a battleship and requested a front row seat.

In fact, Baker declared, "That idea is so damned nonsensical and impossible that I'm willing to stand on the bridge of a battleship while that nitwit tries to hit it from the air."

To the consternation of the Navy and many others, Mitchell's publicity stunt worked. His bombers sank the German battleship Ostfriesland in July 1921. Mitchell didn't punt on fourth down, in spite of the forces that were actively encouraging him to do so. We shouldn't, and our Airmen shouldn't either. Throw the ball.

A better runway

During an assumption of command, no one reaches for their squadron's flag because they seek to continue the status quo antebellum. We grab that flag with pride and an intent to lead boldly. We grab it with visions of grandeur. We seized the guidon to pour a better runway for those who follow.

That starts by leading. On fourth-and-one, tell your Airmen to go deep. After you score, instead of attempting the simple and easy extra point, go for two.

Why? Because we're Airmen, and risking all for victory is in our soul. The Air Force exclusively breeds air-minded thinkers to provide solutions to national security problems. This is the way it has always been.

Truly, the behavior is in our DNA. We are the service that superciliously sings, "We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey! Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force." It's time to unapologetically live in fame. Your Airmen deserve it. The nation requires it.



1) Brig. Gen. Robert Miller, left, Air Force Medical Operations Agency commander at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, speaks with Tech. Sgt. Eugenia Harrison, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron, during a Sept. 12 visit to the 60th SGCS sterile processing department at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Miller was provided an in-depth look into the DGMC mission and the opportunity to interact with Airmen from several clinics during his visit.

General takes closer look at Travis ... HOSPITAL

U.S. Air Force photos by Heide Couch



2) Brig. Gen. Robert Miller, left, Air Force Medical Operations Agency commander, and AFMOA Chief Master Sgt. John Yun, center, AFMOA superintendent, listen to Lt. Col. John DaLomba 60th Medical Operations Squadron, during a recent visit to the physical therapy clinic at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 3) Miller is briefed by 2nd Lt. Lindsay Tate, 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, during his tour of DGMC.





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